

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04822 271733Z

ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9659

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 4822

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, CI

SUBJECT: RETURN OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU -- FOREIGN MINISTER

CUBILLOS' STATEMENT

THE FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S TRANSLATION OF A STATEMENT ISSUED
HERE JUNE 26 BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN THE NAME OF FOREIGN MINISTER
CUBILLOS: QUOTE:

A. RECALLING AN AMBASSADOR FOR CONSULATION IS A NORMAL PRACTICE
AND IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, DESPITE ITS BAD TIMING, I CONSIDER IT
BENEFICIAL SINCE AMBASSADOR LANDAU CAN EXPLAIN TO HIS SUPERIORS
THE CHILEAN POSITION, THAT HE UNDERSTANDS PERFECTLY, AND REITERATE
TO THEM THE DESIRE OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE COOPERATING IN
THE INVESTIGATION OF THE SO-CALLED 'LETELIER CASE.' THIS
INVESTIGATION MUST BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORD WITH OUR INTERNAL
LEGISLATION, THE TREATIES THAT LINK US TO THE UNITED STATES,
AND INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE.

B. THE RECALL OF THE AMBASSADOR DOES NOT COME AS A SURPRISE
SINCE IT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED AS A MEANS OF PRESSURE RELATED TO
THE COURSE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WISHES THE INVESTIGATION TO
TAKE. THESE PRESSURES ARE AND ALWAYS WILL BE UNACCEPTABLE TO CHILE.
NEVERTHELESS, OUR FIRM DECISION TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE FOR THE
PURPOSE OF JUSTICE WILL NOT CHANGE, NOR WILL THEY CAUSE US TO
ABANDON OUR EQUALLY FIRM DECISION TO DO SO WITH REGARD THE LEGAL
NORMS CITED AND OUR DIGNITY. I WISH TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE
REQUESTS PENDING ARE MERE PROBATORY PROCEEDINGS (DILIGENCIAS
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PROBATORIEAS).

C. I CONSIDER THAT THE RECALL OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE 8TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES IS INOPPORTUNE AND INAPPROPRIATE (INADECUADO)
AND PERMITS DOUBTS WHETHER IT IS REALLY JUSTICE BEING SOUGHT OR
WHETHER THERE ARE OTHER, POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. IN ANY CASE, IT
LENDERS ITSELF TO AMBIGUOUS INTERPRETATIONS.

D. THE PRESS STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON THIS SUBJECT RELATING THIS MEASURE TO A REVIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE IS SURPRISING BECAUSE NOBODY KNOWS BETTER THAN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THIS AREA, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ITSELF HAS PRAISED PROGRESS BOTH IN RESPECT TO INTERNAL MEASURES AS WELL AS WITH RESPECT TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

E. I HAVE MADE KNOWN TO THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA OF THE UNITED STATES OUR CONDEMNATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF MR. LETELIER, OUR FIRM INTENTION TO COOPERATE IN GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THE MATTER, AND THE AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES FOR RECIPROCAL COOPERATION IN THE INVESTIGATION. ALSO I HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT IN REALITY IT IS THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE THAT HAS THE RIGHT TO DEMAND THE COOPERATION THAT WAS OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THAT HAS NOT BEEN CARRIED OUT TO THE DEGREE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HOPED.
KENNEDY

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